(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh was requested on 24.6.94 to furnish certain essential details for processing of the proposal, which have not been received. In the absence of complete details from the State Government, the question of taking a final decision on the proposal does not arise.

Role of Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission

1012. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission in regard to fixing prices of foodgrains;

(b) whether the Commission is functioning properly;

(c) whether the Government are ignoring the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is to make recommendations to the Government on agricultural price policy on a continuing basis. The Commission is required to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure to meet the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of producers and consumers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The recommendations of the CACP serve as the basis for formulating the agricultural price policy and these are generally accepted. However the Government at times improves upon the recommendations made by the CACP keeping in view the developments subsequent to submission of the report.

(e) The main objective of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production; and to safeguard the interests of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. Government announces each season the minimum support price for 24 major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and Tobacco Board besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

[English]

Gifted Yellow Dal

1013. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several foreign countries have gifted yellow dal to India under the World Food Programme for poor people;

(b) if so, the details of the countries alongwith the quantity received as a gift during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the said gifted dal is being sold openly in the markets;

(d) if so, the facts and results thereof; and

(e) the action contemplated by the Government against the officials responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The details of gifted yellow split peas (Matar dal) provided by various countries under World Food Programme during the last three years are as under:

(Qnty MT)

Year	Australia	Canada	Denmark
1994-95	731.00	123.53	3880.00
1995-96	1783.00	—	6345.30
1996-97	—	—	1840.00

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, as per the agreement during 1996, a quantity of 1100 MT yellow split peas was monetised by WFP through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), New Delhi. An amount of Rs. 130.88 lakhs was deposited with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) directly by NAFED against which FCI released 1835.575 MT rice to WFP assisted project for the targetted poor in Madhya Pradesh.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.